

**City of Kittitas
Council Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2009**

Pro Tem Mayor Gay called the meeting of the Kittitas City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., October 27, 2009. Councilmembers present: Turpin, Gilmour, Camarata, and Gay.

Staff present was Clerk/Treasurer Robin Newcomb.

Pro Tem Mayor Gay led those assembled in the Flag Salute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2009, regular meeting and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 yes and 0 no.

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2009, special meeting and Councilmember Camarata seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 yes and 0 no.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Gilmour – Money

Councilmember Camarata moved to approve the amended agenda and Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE COMMENTS

Mrs. Nicholas – She would like to know if the city is putting up Christmas decorations this year.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Treasurer's Report – See handout.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget Discussions – Some discussions on the 2010 budget were:

- Councilmember Gilmour asked if the 2010 Kittcom costs are available yet. Hopefully they will be available by the next council meeting.
- Councilmember Gilmour explained the Labor & Industries 2010 rates are increasing.
- Councilmember Turpin explained B&O tax revenues should be budgeted based on the water and sewer revenues rather than estimating them from the actual 2009 B&O tax revenues. He believes this would increase each of the B&O tax revenues by a few thousand dollars.
- Councilmember Turpin doesn't believe the donation and contribution revenues should be budgeted. Council agreed to remove this budgeted item and have the difference come from the ending balance. The other option would be to have the difference added to property tax revenues.

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- Councilmember Gilmour asked if there was overtime budgeted for Public Works Lead Bosch. The additional amount budgeted in the street salary is \$5,645 for additional street help.
- Pro Tem Mayor Gay explained all departments made cuts to balance their 2010 budgets.
- The property tax revenue is probably under budget.
- Councilmember Turpin asked why the fire department volunteer benefits are calculated differently than employee benefits. Chief Carbajal explained the fire department benefits pay for pension and disability costs and are remitted to the Board for Volunteer Firefighters.
- Pro Tem Mayor Gay asked if the Kittcom dispatch fees went up. We haven't received this information yet. Councilmember Gilmour explained Ellensburg and the County picked up a chunk of these fees last year and if they don't do this in 2010 we could be about \$20,000 short. Councilmember Turpin explained he doesn't see the City of Ellensburg picking it up because they are already talking about using their reserve funds next year to get through the next couple of years. Councilmember Gilmour explained we can't expect them to do it every time.
- Council decided to look further into the B&O tax revenues and the way they are calculated.
- Approximately \$10,000 needs to be budgeted as the match for the Fire Department CDBG Grant. This can be budgeted into the capital projects fund or the general fund.
- Councilmember Gilmour asked if we got an estimate from Cal Jordan on the Community Hall Roof. Currently there is a little over \$9,000 budgeted in the capital projects fund for this. We need to check with Cal and see if this amount is appropriate or if it should be increased.

Mission Statement – Pro Tem Mayor Gay would like to see something more aggressive on the jobs to housing ratio included in the mission statement and will write something up on this. Councilmember Turpin thought maybe contacting the Economic Development Group and incorporating some of their ideas into the mission statement would be useful.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #09-018 – 2010 Property Tax Ordinance – The public hearing was opened at 7:24 p.m. for public discussion. Pro Tem Mayor Gay read allowed the ordinance. After some discussion, the public hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Turpin moved to approve this ordinance and Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Hotel Motel Tax – Councilmember Gilmour thinks we should try and apply for some of the hotel/motel tax. Councilmember Turpin explained this money has to be used to bring tourism into the county. He also explained the City of Ellensburg has some of this funding we could tap into. He would like to see the city put in an application for this. Councilmember Turpin will look into this.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

Approval of September Bills – Checks #13466 to #13485 for \$12,629.49 were moved to be approved by Councilmember Turpin and seconded by Councilmember Gilmour. The motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

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MAYORS REPORT

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Public Safety – Councilmember Turpin asked if we can get the lights fixed by the school as he has received complaints again about them flashing at all hours. He believes they should be turned off until they are fixed.

Seventh Street – Councilmember Gilmour explained there needs to be about \$3,200 put in Seventh Street to fix it. He would like this put in the budget for 2010. Pro Tem Mayor Gay suggested we have Mayor Huber meet with Public Works Lead Bosch to discuss this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PRO TEM MAYOR GAY ANNOUNCED COUNCIL WILL GO TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:36 P.M. FOR 22 MINUTES TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING AND ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGY TO BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL DURING THE COURSE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND NEGOTIATIONS. COUNCILMEMBER TURPIN MOVED TO APPROVE HAVING COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES TONY HELLAND AND RICK HINK INCLUDED IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION. IT WAS NOTED THE ATTORNEY SAID COUNCIL HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DO THIS BUT ADVISES AGAINST IT. PRO TEM MAYOR GAY EXPLAINED THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA. COUNCILMEMBER GILMOUR SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION FAILED 2 YES AND COUNCILMEMBER GAY AND CAMARATA VOTING NO.

PRO TEM MAYOR GAY ANNOUNCED THE RECONVENING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:56 P.M.

No decisions were made in executive session.

Councilmember Turpin moved to approve hiring a union negotiation lawyer to handle the union negotiations instead of the Council. He believes it would cost around \$2,000 but the raises would cost the city \$8,400 in 2010, around \$10,000 in 2011, and around \$12,000 in 2012. In addition, he believes it needs to be an attorney that specializes in union negotiations since our city attorney doesn't. He also stated it isn't that he is against employees getting raises but since it is a contract an attorney needs to review it. Pro Tem Mayor Gay agreed stating all city contracts are reviewed by our city attorney but disagrees with hiring a union negotiation lawyer. Councilmember Gilmour seconded the motion. The motion failed 2 yes and Councilmember Gay and Camarata voting no.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the October 27, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Camarata. The motion passed 4 yes 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest: Pro Tem Mayor Gay _____

Clerk/Treasurer _____